REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed on May 2, 2005. The Office has indicated the allowability of claims 17-20 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Office Action has rejected claims 7-12, 15-16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roach et al. (USP 6,274,978). The Office Action has also rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roach in view of Fang (US 2003/0127720), claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roach in view of Fang and further in view of Chapman et al.(USP 2004/0056072), claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roach in view of Fang and further in view of Iwasak et al. (USP 5,866,950), claim 13-14 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roach in view of Iwasaki.

After carefully considering the remarks set forth in this Office Action and the cited references, Applicants respectfully assert that Roach is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 7 or rendering claims 1 & 6 unpatenble in view of Fang.

As emphasized before, Roach basically teaches a plurality of light-emitting fibers 100 arranged side-by-side and each of the light-emitting fibers 100 has a plurality of light emitting elements 150 disposed along the length of the light-transmissive transparent fiber 110 to from a linear array of light emitting elements (col. 3, ln. 25-34). The core of the light emitting fiber 100 is a plastic transparent fiber 110. An elongated ITO conductor layer 120 is formed along one

surface of the fiber 110 to serve as a hole-injecting first electrode of the light emitting element. A layer of light emissive material 130, such as an OLED material, is formed over the ITO conductor layer 120. A pattern of segmented electron-injecting electrodes or contacts 140 is then formed on the light-emissive material 130 to provide the second electrical electrode of the light emitting elements 150 on the light-emitting fiber 100 (col. 8, ln. 15-37, Fig. 6).

Nevertheless, the Examiner argues in the Response to Arguments that Roach teaches the electrode 120 and the device inherently includes a driving region... and 140 is in fact formed on top and direct to layer 130 as shown in Fig. 3. However, even assuming the electrode 120 of Roach is equivalent to the first electrode of the instant case and the electrode 120 also includes a driving region, Roach still fails to teach the first electrode includes a driving region and at least an interconnection region 140 and the interconnection region 140 is protruded from the driving region. It is literally obvious to a general reader to claim 7 that claim 7 teaches the driving region and the interconnection region are part of the first electrode. The element 140 of Roach is the second electrode and is formed on the light-emissive material 130, rather than a protrusion from or a part of the first electrode 120. In other words, since element 140 is separated from the first electrode by the light-emissive material 130, the element 140 can not be a part of the first electrode. The issue is not whether element 140 protrudes from the side or from the top of the first electrode. Rather, element 140 must be a part of the first electrode. Therefore, Roach at least fails to teach or suggest the present invention in this regard.

However, in order to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present invention, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6 and 17 without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice,

and amended independent claim 11 to incorporate the subject matter in claims 17, which the Examiner considered as allowable subject matter. The submission of the amendments by the Applicants is solely to advance the prosecution of the application, without conceding that the 102 (b) rejection or the 103(a) is properly based. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set fort hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traverse, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 7-16 and 18-22 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS

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Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809